



Renton homes teetering on brink of disaster Video

12:47 PM PST on Tuesday, January 17, 2006

From KING Staff Reports

Video

RENTON, Wash. - A slow-moving mountain of mud threatens to take out a Renton neighborhood, and engineers are doing everything they can to save it.

[Glenn Farley reports](#)

[More ... Custom Video ...](#)

Overnight Monday, Washington State Conservation Corps crews sandbagged and installed large, plastic barriers to help barricade the flow of mud. But homeowners on Southeast 148th Street fear at any time the ground could give way underneath them.

The slide started Friday when a river of mud and debris came hurtling down the hill. Rain through the weekend continued to saturate soil, causing a tree at the top of the hillside to topple over Sunday.

Engineers and observers say within a span of days a nearby creek has grown twenty times its original size. As the ravine gets bigger, workers and residents get more nervous.

"The creek still has some unpredictability," said Don Althaus, King County Department of Transportation. "It could swing towards these residents if there was a breach up above or further debris flow."



KING

Water gushing out of the ground is eating away at the hillside near Renton.

Engineers thought they stabilized the situation at the end of the flow, but now worry about the situation up top.

"If it gets worse, we'll close the road permanently," said Tony Ledbetter, with King County Road Maintenance.

Neighbors were concerned and worried about the aquifer which prompted the mudslide and a growing valley.

"It's gotten much much bigger. It's scary," said Sheri Plumlee, resident. "I've been praying for it to stop raining. People's homes are in danger."

"It's unnerving at night to hear the trees fall," said another resident.

"That's what you hear coming out is that aquifer just feeding material out and the more material it feeds out of the hillside the more the hillside falls in," Ledbetter said.

One engineer said he expects the sliding could continue for the next two to three months, depending on the weather.

KING 5's Glenn Farley and Paul Chambers contributed to this report.

Online at: http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW_011706WABrentonslideLJ.1036e693.html